

Amendments to the Specification:

On Page 1, please amend the first paragraph containing the Cross-Reference to Related Applications added by the Second Preliminary Amendment filed March 26, 2001 with the following rewritten paragraph:

--Applicant claims priority under 35 U.S.C. §119 of German Application No. 198 26 169.1 filed June 13, 1998. Applicant also claims priority under 35 U.S.C. ~~§120~~ §365 of PCT/EP99/04045 filed June 11, 1999. The international application under PCT article 21(2) was not published in English.--